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News Release

January 20, 2005

Staff Reductions Regular Part of Business in '05 as Fernald Nears Closure

CINCINNATI - Today, Fluor Fernald Inc., cleanup contractor at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Fernald Closure Project, laid off 20 salaried employees as part of the site's ongoing workforce restructuring for closure in 2006. Over the next two months, the company expects to phase-out an additional 70 jobs as individual projects on the 1,050-acre site come to an end and fewer support personnel are needed to complete the remaining work.

Job categories affected by this reduction are varied and include such groups as maintenance, engineering, human resources and administration.

DOE and Fluor Fernald are on schedule to complete cleanup of the former uranium production plant in early 2006. This year Fluor Fernald workers will complete a project involving the removal of over 1 million tons of waste found in six on-site pits. The first train associated with this project, the largest waste shipping campaign in DOE history, departed Fernald in April 1999. The 135th 60-car unit train of waste is scheduled to leave the site tomorrow. Fluor Fernald will also empty and dismantle three 50-year old concrete silos that once held residues from the uranium extraction process, place over 1 million cubic yards of contaminated material in an On-Site Disposal Facility and declare that 95 percent of Fernald land has reached soil cleanup levels as established by Ohio and US EPA's. Engineers and construction personnel will also complete an overhaul of Fernald's water treatment system that will greatly reduce the current footprint of the facility while maintaining treatment capacity necessary to decontaminate the aquifer.

Workforce restructuring is an on-going part of the closure process. In all, over 725 salaried and wage employees have left the project through voluntary and involuntary programs since 2001. Following this series of reductions, Fluor Fernald employment will stand at 758 excluding construction personnel.

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